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24 May 1974

MSO Portland PCN-PD 066-74

Initial Notification

Time: 1215

Reporting Source: PO2 EDWARDS during Harbor Patrol

Report: Oil sump overflowed into the Willamette River at Port of Portland
Terminal 1 maintenance shop.

Action: PO2 EDWARDS investigated

Notification: MSO Portland message 242230 Z May 74

Time on Scene: 1215T T-103

Initial Observations

Weather: Sky: OverCast Wind: 5-10 knots variable

Current: 5-6 knots downriver

Investigator observed oily water running down the riverbank behind the Port of Portland gearlocker at Terminal One. The oil was going into the Willamette River. An oil sump system was located behind the shop of the gearlocker to contain lube oil and separate water from it as it was discharged from the maintenance shop. The ground around the sumps was saturated with oil and oil stains were observed running into the Willamette River. Oil was coming from one sump and running through a ditch down the river bank into the Willamette creating a 5 feet by 15 feet oil slick on the surface of the water.

1230 contacted person in charge, Name: Mr. Bob Jones

Title: Equipment Supervisor

Company Vessel: Port of Portland

Reason for Suspecting Source:

Coast Guard investigator observed oily water running from an oil sump located behind the Port of Portland gearlocker into the Willamette River.

Observations of Investigation:

Mr. K. Mockdenhupt, shop foreman, stated that the sump system was used to collect oil from the maintenance shop and a steam cleaner located next to the shop used by the Port of Portland.

The investigator was told by several employees that the oil sumps had overflowed before.

Mr. Jones informed the investigator that the sumps are normally emptied before they get full. Investigator observed that the sumps were allowed to overflow spilling oily water into the Willamette. Investigator estimated that less than one gallon of oil per day was entering the river. Mr. Jones also stated that the sumps would be cleaned and the saturated ground around the sumps would be removed and the open ditch filled, so that the discharge would stop.



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Cause of Spill:

The spill was caused when the Port of Portland's maintenance shop oil sumps were allowed to overflow spilling oily water into the Willamette River at Terminal 1.

Photographs:

- No. 1 Oil slick in river behind Port of Portland gearlocker
Taken by EDWARDS
- 2 Oil sump system located behind Port of Portland gear locker
Taken by EDWARDS
- 3 Oily water running from Port of Portland gearlocker oil sump down river bank into Willamette River
Taken by EDWARDS
- 4 Port of Portland gearlocker oil sump surrounded by oil saturated soil
Taken by EDWARDS

Photos will be forwarded when developed.

Additional Information:

1. Cooperation of responsible party was good.
2. Port of Portland personnel cleaned out the sumps and removed oil saturated soil from around the sumps.

James D. Edwards Jr.
Investigator

6 May 1974
Date